

Nex

The Site Is Ours.

BY W. W. PINSON.

IT is a great joy to the struggling missionary when a much-needed property or equipment is secured. The following comes from one of our most faithful and efficient missionaries when the news was received:

"Now the site is ours. Our cup of joy is overflowing. There is no piece of property in Saltillo more desirable than this."

These words refer to the purchase of a long-coveted site for a new church in the city of Saltillo, Mexico, made possible by the pledges of the laymen and preachers of the Southwest Missouri Conference at its last session. The missionary who penned those words went there when fanaticism was rampant, and began a school in cramped quarters with a handful of students. Now there are in the Normal Department alone thirty-four young ladies being trained for teaching in the schools of Mexico. Already forty-one have graduated from this department, and wherever they go they are proving a blessing and a force for good.

The city, situated on the Mexican National Railroad, the trunk line from San Antonio, Tex., to the City of Mexico, is

magnificently located upon the high table-land, which gives a salubrious climate and links it to the great centers of the South. In Saltillo is a splendid Normal College—one of the best in the republic. It was built through the influence of Mr. Osuna, who was educated at the expense of the Mexican government in New Bedford, Mass. The buildings were erected at a cost of \$250,000 (Mexican). Students from all parts of the country come to this institution, and it is a matter of supreme importance that we should have a good church building near by which will attract and help to win them. Not a few are already Christians representing the various denominations, and the religious influence exerted upon them will be felt in the normal schools of every State south of the Rio Grande.

A little church which has grown up in this educational center has come to its own through years of persecution and discouragement. It is making history rapidly because of the leavening influences going out from it. Andres Osuna, referred to above, is one of the leading members and a local preacher. He is easily one of the most influential educators in the country. Intelligent, patriotic, and irreproachable in character, this State Superintendent of Instruction has a unique opportunity to do a great work for his own people. Not long since the Jesuits maligned and sought to remove him from office, but President Diaz and the Governor of the State have stood by him

from the beginning, knowing full well the value of his services.

The church occupied by our congregation is small and unattractive, fronting, as it does, on a narrow side street. The new property is on a corner, beautifully located and spacious enough for both the church and the enlargement of the college buildings. The movement among our brethren of the Southwest Missouri Conference comes just in the nick of time to strengthen our hold upon the community, since one of our Mexican preachers, an ex-priest, has stirred the city to the very depths by his powerful presentation of the great truths of Protestantism. The Catholic bishop and Jesuits sought in every way to break his influence, but in vain.

An extract from another letter from Mexico reads: "When we shall have secured the new property and erected on it a large, modern church, Saltillo can easily become the Mecca of Southern Methodism." The property has been secured by an advance payment upon the part of the Board of Missions. It is imperative that the installments should be met with promptness. Failure at this point would be fatal. The entire amount necessary for the purchase was \$8,250. The Secretaries of the Board of Missions and the missionaries on the field would urge the raising of this amount at the earliest possible day.

The world has been reduced by the wonderful changes of the last century into a great neighborhood. In a new and power-

ful sense it has entered upon an era of brotherhood. Geographically the United States is closely related to Mexico, the one lying upon the north bank and the other upon the south side of the Rio Grande River. From President Diaz, one of the greatest statesmen of the age, to the humblest citizen of the Mexican Republic they look to us for higher ideals, leadership in education, in morals, and even in religion. The time has come when, as a Christian people, we can give an illustration of brotherly sympathy and willingness to help.

The Laymen's Missionary Movement is a constructive force. It is the most potential agency that has sprung up in the Church in centuries. The work of evangelizing the world is a man's job. It should not be relegated to preachers, women, and children. They have borne their share of the burden and have done it nobly. The strong men of the Church must now put their shoulders to the work. They must lift and help and serve until those who are under the bondage of tradition and ecclesiasticism and superstition shall look up and realize that God is our common Father. It is this larger mission which prompts to vigorous and immediate effort in response to the call that comes to Missouri Methodism for the equipment of our Church in Saltillo. The money raised by the laymen of Missouri for this call will be their quota of the million for missions.